

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission  
Minutes of the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
(Approved at the 208<sup>th</sup> Meeting)

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

207-1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

At 10:05 a.m., pursuant to the Call to Order of Chair Rosenthal, the meeting began.

Deborah Stone read the roll call.

Members present: George Covington, Donnie Dann, Ronald Flemal, Richard Keating, William McClain, Mare Payne, Lauren Rosenthal, and David Thomas.

Members absent: Jill Riddell.

Others present: Steven Byers, Bob Edgin, Randy Heidorn, Tom Lerczak, Angella Moorehouse, Kelly Neal, John Nelson, Debbie Reider, and Jenny Skufca, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC); Don McFall, Scott Ballard, and John Wilker, Office of Resource Conservation (ORC), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); Kathy Davis, Rich Lewis, Keith Shank, and Tim Schweizer, Office of Realty and Environmental Planning (OREP), IDNR; Kathy Andrews, *Outdoor Illinois* magazine, IDNR; Anne Mankowski, Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB); Jeannie Barnes, Illinois Natural History Survey; Brian Anderson, Illinois Natural History Survey and INPC Advisor; Thomas Emerson, Illinois State Archaeological Society and INPC Advisor; Marilyn Campbell, INPC Consultant; Tom Clay, Illinois Audubon Society and INPC Consultant; John Schwegman, INPC Consultant; Fran Harty, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) representing the proposed addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve and proposed addition to Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve; Jim Anderson and Tom Hahn, Lake County Forest Preserve District, representing the proposed Cuba Marsh Land and Water Reserve, the proposed buffer addition to MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve, proposed buffer addition to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve, proposed buffer addition to Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve, and proposed Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve; Kevin Ivers and Elizabeth Kessler, McHenry County Conservation District, representing the proposed Boger Bog Nature Preserve and proposed Detrana Fen addition to Fel-Pro Triple R Fen Nature Preserve; Chris Young, *The State Journal Register*; Jim Payne, George Rose.

207-2) Adoption of Agenda

A correction will be made to item 11 on the agenda to reflect the correct meeting month which was September, not October.

It was moved by Payne, seconded by Dann, and carried that the Agenda be adopted as amended.

207-3) Approval of the Minutes of the 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting, September 21, 2010

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Covington, and carried that the Minutes of the 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting, September 21, 2010, be approved.

Chair Rosenthal reported that at the 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the INPC, held on September 21, 2010, at the Burpee Museum of Natural History, Rockford, legal protection was completed by the Commission for ten tracts of land totaling 392.9 acres. Of these, eight of these areas totaling 268.555 acres are owned by private individuals or for profit or not-for-profit corporations who donated the value of the protection agreement to the public. This private land was permanently preserved without further acquisition of the land by the state. The dollar value of the tracts of private land is \$661,000 based on conservative estimates of the fair market value of the land. Private land protected without state acquisition at INPC's 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting were Lafarge Barker Bluff Land and Water Reserve, Hardin County; Canyon Camp addition and Wiley addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve, Jo Daviess County; Skokie River Prairie Land and Water Reserve, Lake County; an addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Cook County; buffer addition to Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve, Edwards County; Lafarge Limestone Glade Nature Preserve, Hardin County, and an addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve, Kankakee County. Protection of this land came about because the Commission has nine staff in the field working with private landowners. There are now 352 dedicated nature preserves in 83 counties totaling 48,660.655 acres and 161 land and water reserves in 66 counties totaling 45,469.882 acres.

Chair Rosenthal thanked the Illinois State Museum for hosting the Commission on February 8, 2011. Dr. Bonnie Styles helped to arrange that meeting, and the former Director of the Commission, Karen Witter, greeted the attendees. She also wanted to thank Beth Shea for leading the tour of the Museum.

207-4) 2011 Meeting Schedule

May 3, 2011 – The National Great Rivers Museum, East Alton  
September 20, 2011 – Lost Valley Visitor Center, Richmond

207-5) INPC Staff Report

Randy Heidorn presented the INPC staff report attached as Exhibit A.

Mr. Heidorn highlighted a few items in the staff report. He stated that the INPC now has a Facebook page. Mr. Heidorn stated that he was a plenary speaker at the 37<sup>th</sup> Natural Areas Conference. All the plenary presentations from that meeting will soon be posted on the Natural Areas website, and there will be a link to that from the Commission's Facebook page.

Mr. Heidorn stated that the IDNR is developing an incident management team. He stated that he is assisting with the Department's incident management team along with Debbie Reider and Bob Edgin.

Mr. Heidorn stated that Jenny Skufca has been working with the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives managers to educate them on the importance of natural areas in their respective areas. Issues relating to wind turbines continue to be monitored by staff.

Staff continues to work with the parties involved with the salt storage facility adjacent to Bluff Spring Fen Nature Preserve. Negotiations continue with the landowner regarding the threat to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve.

Mr. Heidorn stated that Columbia Quarry White Rock Land and Water Reserve registration document provided that the land and water reserve conservation easement was no longer valid when the property was sold. The land was purchased by Clifftop, a regional land trust, with funds from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, the Vital Lands Illinois program of the Grand Victoria Foundation, and a State Wildlife Grant. A stipulation of using some of these funding sources is that it must be dedicated as a nature preserve. Even though this site is no longer in one of the Commission's programs, there is an assurance that it will be brought forth to be dedicated as a nature preserve in the near future.

Mr. Heidorn stated that Judy Faulkner Dempsey retired on December 31, 2010. The position action request (PAR) has been submitted to Central Management Services (CMS) to fill that position. Until that time, he will be the point of contact for Ms. Faulkner Dempsey's area.

207-6) IDNR Staff Report

Don McFall presented the IDNR staff report attached as Exhibit B.

Mr. McFall stated that interviews were held recently for eight resident interns. It was hoped that four interns would be hired to assist the District Heritage Biologists and three to assist the Natural Areas Preservation Specialists (Angella Moorehouse, John Nelson, and Bob Edgin). One intern would be located in the Springfield office to assist with the Endangered Species Program and the Heritage Database. Mr. McFall stated that there have been 58 resident interns since the program began in 1993. He stated that the IDNR has 1,270 employees, and only 38 are younger than 30.

John Wilker gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation regarding the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) update. He stated that the project is scheduled to end in October, 2011. The identification of potential INAI sites has been done in Illinois' 102 counties, and there are 3,863 sites. A screening process will be done of those potential INAI sites by doing an aerial survey (99 counties have been completed to date). The remaining three counties are scheduled to be completed by the end of February, 2011. The aerial survey of the 99 counties has eliminated approximately half of the potential sites. A change implemented with the INAI update was that landowner permission is required before a site is inspected. Approximately four percent of the landowners contacted have refused permission to inspect their land. It has been difficult to find the landowner or the landowner's representative due to absentee landowners, land held in a trust, or land managed by another entity. The INAI update team has identified over 2,000 landowners that need to be contacted for the sites that have made it through the initial screening. Mr. Wilker stated that 36% of those landowners have granted the update team permission to inspect their sites. The next level of screening is a field survey, and surveys have been conducted in 93 counties. The remaining counties will be addressed this coming field season. At that level of screening, greater than 70% of the remaining potential natural areas are then deemed non-qualifying sites.

Mr. Wilker stated that another difference with this INAI update is that data is being collected electronically. This has added another level of complexity to the project. As of this date, they have received 56 nominations. The team is in the process of doing quality control of another 52 sites that will be nominated as INAI sites from the 2010 field season. Based upon the numbers that they have had from the last two field seasons, including the sites already in the works, there may be 50-100 new INAI nominations from this field season. Mr. Wilker stated that the team is finding that the sites that have been under long-term management have increased in quality and can now be listed as an INAI site.

Mr. Wilker stated that once the sites have passed the quality control procedures, the packets will go out for review by the Natural Heritage Biologists. The sites will also be presented to the Natural Areas Preservation Specialists for their review. Once the sites are signed off by the Natural Heritage Biologists, they will go to the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee for approval to be added to the INAI. It is anticipated that 200 new INAI sites will be added. He stated that there will be more sites that are still in the investigation process.

Another aspect of the update process is the Category I recheck. The team would like to go to all of the 659 Category I INAI sites. To date, 313 of those sites have been inspected. He stated that 322 of those natural communities have either increased or retained their natural quality. Approximately 123 have decreased slightly, and 65 of those natural communities have decreased significantly. A site may have only one natural community, but many sites have more than one natural community.

Mr. Wilker stated that since the original survey was done in the late 1970s, 70 sites (92 high-quality natural communities) have been removed from the INAI because they have decreased in quality. Fresh water marshes are highly impacted by off-site disturbances, and there may be no high-quality fresh water marshes left in Illinois. Sand prairies are going through a successional period, and hill prairies are closing in.

Mr. Wilker stated that the information obtained through this update validates the work of the Commission. Sites that have received recognition by the landowner through understanding of the value of the natural features, gives them some level of protection and are doing better than sites owned by individuals who do not see an inherent value. Sites that receive prescribed burning and exotic species control are maintaining or increasing in their natural quality. Sites that are receiving off site impact are decreasing in natural quality.

Mr. Wilker stated that Dr. Deanna Glosser is creating a strategic natural areas vision. This will outline a plan to make the INAI sites sustainable for the next 20 years. Dr. Glosser has conducted meetings across the State, talking with IDNR's partners and professionals in charge. She has put together a large amount of information. This report is in the final review period, and she hopes to have the report posted on line sometime in March or April, 2011.

#### 207-7) Endangered Species Protection Board Report

Anne Mankowski presented the ESPB report attached as Exhibit C.

Ms. Mankowski stated that she was working to finalize the Board publication *Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois: Status and Distribution – Volume 4: 2009 and 2010 Changes to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Animal and Plant Species*.

Ms. Mankowski stated that the ESPB and the IDNR collaborated on a State Wildlife Grant project over the last couple years for the recovery of the barn owl in Illinois. The project included the development of a formal recovery plan for the species. Dr. Jeff Walk was the primary author of the recovery plan. The members of the recovery team are listed in the ESPB report. The plan is posted on the ESPB's web page. The project is largely a nest box implementation and monitoring program. Forty new boxes were placed in 2010, and 20 nesting pairs were documented in 15 counties.

The next meeting of the ESPB will be held at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie on February 25, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. The Board will also hold a special meeting at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to conduct strategic planning at 10:00 A.M. on February 24, 2011.

Chair Rosenthal stated that the registration agreement for today's land and water reserve presentation have been signed and executed by the landowners as required by administrative rule.

207-8) Lake Co. – Cuba Marsh Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) to register 767 acres of the 781.5-acre Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve as Cuba Marsh Land and Water Reserve. The site is located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in south-central Lake County and represents a sweeping landscape of freshwater marsh, sedge meadow, dry-mesic savanna, dry-mesic prairie and two cultural communities (an old field community and a prairie reconstruction) that occur on land that was formerly farmed. To date, 277 plant species have been recorded from the site. Embedded within the proposed Cuba Marsh Land and Water Reserve is the Cuba Marsh Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #1238). Information from this Category II INAI site shows the site supports the state-endangered black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and yellow-headed blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) and the state-threatened common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) and least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*). Four additional state-endangered wetland bird species; yellow-crowned night-heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginous*), black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), and Forster's tern (*Sterna forsteri*); and the state-threatened black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) have been reported from suitable habitat at the site by LCFPD staff. Protection and stewardship of this site supports several action steps identified in the Farmland and Prairie, Wetlands, and Forest Campaign sections of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). This site is also located within the Lake-McHenry Conservation Opportunity Area identified in the IWAP as a resource rich area.

The landowner reserves the right to maintain the trails and to construct additional facilities to accommodate use of the site by the public. The landowner also reserves the right to continue adaptive management strategies, restore and improve surface and groundwater hydrology at this site, and implement wildlife control measures or reintroduce wildlife species with the permission of the Commission.

Commissioner Dann stated that he was very familiar with this site, and it was his opinion that it was a real showpiece. He stated that the American woodcock is an attraction in the spring. The LCFPD leads walks of the site, and people come to see this bird do its courting display.

Commissioner McClain stated that this site has incredible diversity, and he sees this as a site of promise.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Cuba Marsh in Lake County as an Illinois land and water reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 8 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2119)

Commissioner Covington thanked the LCFD for its farsightedness in pursuing land and water reserve and nature preserve status for so many of their properties. The LCFPD has shown incredible leadership under Tom Hahn and going back to the early 1990s. The citizens of Lake County have passed bond referendums on several occasions, allowing the LCFPD to increase its bonding authority. This has allowed it to assemble an incredible necklace of jewels, and the District has protected those crown jewels for the future by enrolling them in the Commission's programs.

Randy Heidorn explained what a buffer dedication entails. He stated that under the Natural Areas Preservation Act, the Commission has the option to dedicate an area as either nature preserve or nature preserve buffer. A nature preserve buffer has all of the same restrictions that the nature preserve has with one exception. The standard for removal of buffer status is that it is in the public interest as opposed to the standard of a nature preserve which is in the imperative public necessity. A buffer can be a site that tends not to qualify for nature preserve status on its own, but it provides some level of support for the protection of an area. This can be in the form of access, hydrology, or any specific need associated with that site. The key ingredient is location and how that location supports the nature preserve.

207-9) Lake Co. – Sarah and Robert Allgyer Prairie Buffer Addition to Skokie River Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of Sarah and Robert Allgyer for preliminary approval for dedication of a 0.90 acre buffer addition to the 137-acre Skokie River Nature Preserve. Skokie River Nature Preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Lake County. Skokie River Nature Preserve encompasses McLaughlin Prairie and Shaw Prairie, two high-quality mesic prairies recognized by the INAI (#0658). The proposed buffer addition consists primarily of grade C/D mesic prairie and a cultural community. To date, 72 plant species have been reported from the proposed buffer addition. The initial proposal for dedication of Skokie River Nature Preserve recognized the Nature Preserve's patchwork design and recommended "...dedication of adjacent lands as buffer...(and) natural community restoration". The proposed buffer addition is consistent with that recommendation, lies adjacent to the Skokie River Nature Preserve, and may lead to additional opportunities to formally protect and manage additional privately-owned lands located along the border of the Nature Preserve. The landowner reserves the right to maintain the woodchip trail.

Commissioner Covington stated that he has known the Allgyers for many years, and he recommended that they contact Mr. Byers. He stated that he was talking with the Allgyers as a friend, and there was no remuneration involved for that suggestion. He also stated that he was on the Board of the Lake Forest Open Lands Association. Even though he felt there was no conflict of interest, he would recuse himself from consideration of this site.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Keating, and carried, with Covington abstaining, that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of the Sarah and Robert Allgyer Prairie buffer addition to Skokie River Nature Preserve in Lake County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 9 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2120)

207-10) Mason Co. – Buffer Addition to Sand Prairie Scrub Oak Nature Preserve, Dedication

Tom Lerczak presented a proposal on behalf of the IDNR for preliminary approval for dedication of 50 acres in two separate tracts (40 acres and 10 acres) as a buffer addition to Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve. Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve (INAI #0732) is located approximately eight miles south of Havana in the Mason County Sand Areas Conservation Opportunity Area within the Illinois River Section of the Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Areas Division. Both proposed nature preserve buffer tracts border the Nature Preserve, contain grade C and grade D dry sand forest with black oak (*Quercus velutina*) and blackjack oak (*Q. marilandica*) and old fields with components of sand prairie such as aromatic sumac (*Rhus aromatic*) and sand love grass (*Eragrostis trichodes*), and have the potential for restoration of higher quality natural communities. Four Species in Greatest Need of Conservation have been observed on the proposed buffer: regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*), which is also state-threatened; northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*); yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*); and field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). The proposed buffer addition serves as a necessary adjunct to the Nature Preserve by helping to protect high-quality areas from the effects of nearby row-crop agriculture and by providing additional area for natural community restoration. Dedication of this buffer addition will help implement the IWAP by supporting the following priority action campaigns: Farmland and Prairie, Invasive Species, Forest, and Land and Water Stewardship. Dedication of this buffer addition will increase the number of protected acres at Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve to 1,514.75 acres.

Mr. Lerczak stated that there is one small parking area on the site, and two more small parking areas may be placed in the buffer tracts.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Payne, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication for a buffer addition to Sand Prairie Scrub Oak Nature Preserve in Mason County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2121)

207-11) Cook Co. – Addition to Gensburg-Markham Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for final approval for dedication of 3.032 acres of portions of platted but unbuilt streets and alleys that have been vacated, as an addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. The 3.032-acre addition lies just south of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. A proposal for final approval for dedication of 3.655 acres was presented at the Commission's 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting in September, 2010. The acreage discrepancy became apparent when TNC determined that the southern half of 157<sup>th</sup> Street had not been vacated as previously thought. Both Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Markham. The proposed addition lies within the boundaries for both the INAI site (#0400) and the National Registry of Natural Landmarks designated by the U.S. National Park Service. Elements of grade A dry-mesic sand prairie, grade B mesic sand prairie, and grade B and grade D sedge meadow occur within the proposed addition and support a federally listed plant species. Dedication of this addition is consistent with the recommendations of an approved Master Plan for this site, tenets of good preserve design, the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan, and elements of the IWAP; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities. Dedication of the proposed addition (3.032) acres will increase the size of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve from 197.284 to 200.316 acres and consolidate long-standing land protection efforts in the area south of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve between 157<sup>th</sup> Street and 159<sup>th</sup> Street.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Payne, and carried, with Dann and Thomas abstaining, that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of an addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve in Cook County as described in the proposal presented under Item 11 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2122)

207-12) Grundy Co. – Hildy Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication  
(Actually presented after Item 21)

Randy Heidorn presented a proposal on behalf of the Hildy family for final approval for dedication of their 8.51 acres of wet-mesic prairie and sedge meadow as a nature preserve. Hildy Prairie is comprised of two distinct units which are separated by a private drive. The 5.446-acre north unit is owned by Clyde and Mary Ellen Hildy. The 3.064-acre south unit is owned by Wallace and Barbara Hildy. The proposed nature preserve is located in the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Hildy Prairie is included on the INAI (#1360) because it provides habitat for the state-endangered queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula rubra*) and a state-endangered and federally-threatened flower. The prairie supports at least one wildlife species in greatest need of conservation, the sphinx moth (*Sphinx eremitis*). Dedication of Hildy Prairie as a



nature preserve promotes numerous action steps outlined in the IWAP. The Hildy family enrolled the prairie in the INPC's Natural Heritage Landmark program in 1981 and has been actively managing the site since that time. The Hildys wish to permanently protect their prairie and promote the management of its unique character by dedicating it as a nature preserve. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting in September, 2010 (Resolution 2098).

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Payne, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of Hildy Prairie (5.446-acre north unit owned by Clyde and Mary Ellen Hildy) in Grundy County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2123)

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Thomas, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of Hildy Prairie (3.064-acre south unit owned by Wallace and Barbara Hildy) in Grundy County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2124)

Chair Rosenthal asked that the thanks of the Commission be conveyed to the Hildy families.

207-13) Jackson Co. – Gene Korando Addition to Lovets Pond Nature Preserve, Dedication  
(Actually presented after Item 14)

Don McFall presented a proposal on behalf of the IDNR for final approval for dedication of 62.39 acres of the Lovets Pond INAI site (#1175) as the Gene Korando addition to Lovets Pond Nature Preserve. The addition is located in the Southern Section of the Lower Mississippi River Bottomlands Natural Division. Lovets Pond is a 152-acre wetland ecosystem located 15 miles east of Murphysboro. The site is characterized by six natural communities, including pond, shrub swamp, swamp, marsh, floodplain forest, and successional field. The communities provide habitat for aquatic and semi-aquatic organisms and 328 taxa of vascular flora. The natural character of Lovets Pond is similar to the earliest known presettlement description of the land. The pond, shrub swamp, swamp, and marsh are of high natural quality and are rare in the natural division. Only two other significant natural ponds remain in this natural division. The proposed Gene Korando addition to Lovets Pond Nature Preserve is within the Larue-Pine Hills-Western Shawnee Trail of Tears Conservation Opportunity Area. The protection of Lovets Pond Nature Preserve supports action steps identified for the IWAP Wetlands Campaign to improve wetland habitat and coordinate wetland goals. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting in September, 2010 (Resolution 2099).

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Flemal, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of the Gene Korando addition to Lovets Pond Nature Preserve in Jackson County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2125)

207-14) Kankakee Co. – Addition to Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication  
(Actually Presented after Item 12)

Randy Heidorn presented a proposal on behalf of TNC for final approval for dedication of 106 acres, comprised of three tracts, as additions to the 85-acre Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve. Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve and its proposed additions are located within the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve, owned by TNC, is part of the larger Pembroke Savanna INAI site (#0975) due to its high-quality sand savanna communities. The proposed addition is also included in this INAI site, and support dry and dry-mesic sand savanna, sand flatwoods, and an old agricultural field reverting to wet-mesic sand prairie. Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve and the proposed addition lie within the Kankakee Sands Conservation Opportunity Area. The Nature Preserve provides habitat for the state-threatened regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*) and at least three other species in greatest need of conservation: red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), and a reptile. Dedication of the proposed addition will protect additional acreage of Pembroke Savanna INAI site, habitat for species in greatest need of conservation, and help complete a solid preserve design for this Nature Preserve. If approved, the total acreage protected within the Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve boundaries will be 191.78 acres. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting in September, 2010 (Resolution 2100).

It was moved by Payne, seconded by Flemal, and carried, with Dann and Thomas abstaining, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of an addition to Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve in Kankakee County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 14 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2126)

207-15) Lake Co. – Buffer Addition to MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication  
(Actually presented after Item 11)

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the LCFPD for final approval for dedication of 41.5 acres as a buffer addition to the 449.5-acre MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve. MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve (INAI #1003) is the largest block of unbroken forest in Lake County and consists of 446 acres owned by the LCFPD and a 3.5-acre buffer addition owned by Robert and Jan Halkovich. With the proposed buffer addition, the Nature Preserve will total 491.0 acres.

MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition are located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition includes grade C dry-mesic upland forest and a cultural community undergoing restoration since 1985 and supports populations of the state-listed pretty sedge (*Carex woodii*) and dog violet (*Viola conspersa*). Protection and stewardship of this 41.5-acre proposed buffer addition to MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve is consistent with several action items identified in the Forests Campaign portion of the IWAP. The large forested block, which includes the proposed buffer addition, supports 17 birds, one amphibian, and two mammals identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting in September, 2010 (Resolution 2101).

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of a buffer addition to MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve in Lake County as described in the proposal presented under Item 15 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2127)

207-16) Lake Co. – Buffer Addition to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the LCFPD for final approval for dedication of 115 acres as a buffer addition to the 602.95-acre Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve. Middlefork Savanna (INAI #1245) is owned in part by the LCFPD (499.0 acres), Lake Forest Open Lands Association (82.8 acres), Frank Farwell estate (8.162 acres), the Lillard trust (12.692 acres), and the City of Lake Forest (0.3 acres). With the proposed 115.1-acre buffer addition, the Nature Preserve will total 718.05 acres. Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition are located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition includes grade C dry-mesic savanna, grade C/D wet prairie, grade C/D sedge meadow and a cultural community. Although no state-listed plants are currently known from the proposed buffer addition, it does provide suitable breeding habitat for the five state-listed animal species including the least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), Wilson's phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*), king rail (*Rallus elegans*), black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), and a reptile. Protection and stewardship of the 115.1-acre proposed buffer addition to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve is consistent with several action items identified in the Forest, Wetlands, and Farmland and Prairies Campaign of the IWAP. Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition support 16 birds, seven insects, two fish, one mammal, one reptile, and one amphibian identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting in September, 2010 (Resolution 2102).

It was moved by Thomas, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of a buffer addition to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve in Lake County as described in the proposal presented under Item 16 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2128)

207-17) Lake Co. – Buffer Addition to Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the LCFPD for final approval for dedication of 597 acres as a buffer addition to Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition would increase the size of Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve from 433.1 acres to 1,030.1 acres, occupying most of the 1,187.4-acre Wadsworth Prairie Forest Preserve. Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve (INAI #0649) and the proposed buffer addition are located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition includes grade C dry-mesic savanna, grade C/D freshwater marsh, grade C/D sedge meadow, grade C/D wet, wet-mesic, and mesic prairie, grade C/D graminoid fen and a cultural community undergoing restoration for 25 years. Although the proposed buffer addition does not currently support any state-listed plants, both LCFPD and INPC staff believe the proposed buffer addition does provide suitable habitat for a federally-listed and state-endangered plant found in the Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition does provide suitable breeding habitat for four state-listed species including the least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), and a reptile. Protection and stewardship of the 604.1-acre proposed buffer addition to Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve is consistent with several action items identified in the Wetlands and Farmland and Prairies Campaign of the IWAP. Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition support 20 birds, two reptiles, and one insect identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition are located in the Upper Des Plaines River Conservation Opportunity Area. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting in September, 2010 (Resolution 2103).

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of a buffer addition to Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve in Lake County as described in the proposal presented under Item 17 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2129)

207-18) Lake Co. – Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the LCFPD for final approval for dedication of 138 acres of the Captain Daniel Wright Forest Preserve as Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve. The proposed Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve is located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed nature preserve encompasses the Elm Road Woods INAI site (#1555). The 84-acre proposed nature preserve includes grade B/C dry-

mesic upland forest and grade B/C northern flatwoods. The 54-acre nature preserve buffer includes a cultural community undergoing restoration. Ten acres of high-quality northern flatwoods identified at this site represent more than a 10% increase in the amount of this community known from the entire State and is considered the first (or highest) tier for conservation in the Chicago region. Northern flatwoods are also recognized by TNC as “imperiled globally” (G-2). To date, 321 plant species have been recorded from the proposed nature preserve and include the state-listed brome hummock sedge (*Carex bromoides*), pretty sedge (*Carex woodii*), pale vetchling (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*), marsh speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*), and dog violet (*Viola conspersa*). Protection and stewardship of Elm Road Woods is consistent with several action items identified in the Forests Campaign portion of the IWAP. The proposed Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve also provides habitat for five birds, two amphibians, and three insects identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting in September, 2010 (Resolution 2104).

It was moved by Thomas, seconded by Payne, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of Elm Road Woods in Lake County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 18 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2130)

Tom Hahn stated that he was very pleased to be here to represent the LCFPD, and the LCFPD Commissioners were pleased to dedicate 2,060 acres at this meeting. Mr. Hahn stated that approximately six years ago he received a call from the mayor of the city of Waukegan. The mayor wanted to come to the LCFPD with a request to use 50 acres of LCFPD land to build a Walmart. He wanted to do a land trade. Mr. Hahn stated that he took that request to the land acquisition committee, and they were appalled that the proposal was even brought forward. The request was denied. The acquisition committee said that the LCFPD needs to protect the land owned by the LCFPD from itself. Since that time, with Mr. Byers’ help with information on how to protect land for the future, the LCFPD has been dedicating land as nature preserves, providing buffers, and registering land as land and water reserves. Approximately 17% of the land owned by the LCFPD was now enrolled in Illinois Nature Preserves Commission protection programs. On February 8, 2011, the LCFPD Board approved another 600 acres that will be brought to the INPC for protection. Mr. Hahn stated that he had to give a lot of the credit to the LCFPD Commissioners for the foresight of seeing that a third party was needed to help protect the land. After evaluating several alternatives, it was found that the INPC provided that level of protection. The LCFPD was very pleased that the INPC operates in such a professional manner and that Mr. Byers has been able to work with the LCFPD. Over the last ten years, the LCFPD has invested over \$300 million in land acquisition in Lake County (approximately 9,000 acres of land). The LCFPD Commissioners view this as buying insurance for the future. He thanked the INPC for approving all the sites owned by the LCFPD brought before the Commission at today’s meeting, and he looked forward to working with the Commission in the future.

Mr. Hahn stated that he was glad to see that George Covington was an INPC Commissioner. Mr. Covington hired him in his first job in the environmental field approximately 30 years ago. He also was glad to see that Donnie Dann was an INPC Commissioner.

Commissioner Flemal stated that he would like to commend the LCFPD for its wonderful work. He asked if the LCFPD Commissioners were elected or appointed.

Mr. Hahn stated that there are 23 elected Commissioners with single member districts located throughout the County, and they are also County Board members. It is a partisan board. The Commissioners have come together on this issue. They see the threat through the Intergovernmental Transfer Act where a municipality can come to them to ask for a trade of land. They have recognized that the LCFPD has invested a lot of time and effort, and they want to protect the land. The LCFPD Commission is a separate taxing body with separate board meetings and separate committees. The Commissioners wear two different hats.

Commissioner Dann stated that as a resident of Lake County, as a volunteer environmental educator, as a bird monitor, and as a constant user of all of all of the preserves in Lake County, the LCFPD has his heartfelt thank you.

Jim Anderson, LCFPD, stated that he has been in the business for 25 years, and Elm Road Woods was his study site for his master's thesis. He offered to lead a tour of the site for those interested.

#### 207-19) McHenry Co. – Boger Bog Nature Preserve, Dedication

John Nelson presented a proposal on behalf of the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) for final approval for dedication of approximately 36.21 acres of land to be known as Boger Bog Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located adjacent to Gladstone Fen Nature Preserve within the Village of Bull Valley and in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. Boger Bog is part of a larger natural spring-fed wetland covering approximately 42.7 acres. This larger site is recognized on the INAI (#1265) and the McHenry County Natural Areas Inventory (#NUN10). Together, the proposed Boger Bog Nature Preserve and the existing Gladstone Fen Nature Preserve will afford legal protection to nearly all of the inventoried natural area. Boger Bog is named in memory of Frederick C. Boger who owned the land from 1955 until his death in 2000. Mr. Boger stipulated that the site be named "Boger Bog." However, the site does not actually contain a bog and is best described as having a graminoid fen and sedge meadow wetland. The proposed Boger Bog Nature Preserve also consists of oak woodlands and savannas on uplands surrounding the fen. The site has a rich diversity of plant species and habitats that support local populations of wildlife, including a state-threatened reptile. One state-threatened plant, spike rush (*Eliocharis rostellata*), is also known to occur within the proposed nature preserve. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting in September, 2010 (Resolution 2105).

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Boger Bog in McHenry County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 19 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2131)

207-20) McHenry Co. – Detrana Fen Buffer Addition to Fel-Pro Triple R Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the MCCD for final approval for dedication of 56.2 acres as a buffer addition to the 113.84-acre Fel-Pro Triple R Fen Nature Preserve. The Nature Preserve and proposed buffer addition lie within the Detrana Fen INAI site (#1557) in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition includes grade B/C graminoid fen and calcareous seep, grade C sedge meadow, freshwater marsh, spring run, and grade C dry-mesic upland forest. To date, 102 plant species have been recorded from the proposed buffer addition and include the state-endangered green-fruited burreed (*Sparganium emersum*) and state-threatened slender bog arrow grass (*Triglochin palustris*), false asphodel (*Tofieldia glutinosa*), and beaked spike rush (*Eleocharis rostellata*). Extensive wildlife surveys have been conducted by the MCCD and include the following species identified by IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation: two-spotted skipper (*Euphyes bimacula*), blackchin shiner, central mudminnow (*Lepomis macrochirus*), lake chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*), mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdii*), sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), and field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). Protection and stewardship of the proposed buffer addition support an action step of the IWAP's Wetlands Campaign. Both the Nature Preserve and proposed buffer addition are located within the Lake-McHenry Wetlands Conservation Opportunity Area. Dedication of the proposed buffer addition will increase the size of Fel-Pro Triple R Fen from 113.84 acres to 170.04 acres. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting in September, 2010 (Resolution 2106).

It was moved by Thomas, seconded by Payne, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of the Detrana Fen buffer addition to Fel-Pro Triple R Fen Nature Preserve in McHenry County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 20 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2132)

Elizabeth Kessler, MCCD, thanked the Commission for the distinct honor of having two of its properties designated as Illinois nature preserves. She stated that this was something that the District has been committed to for many years. The District continues to work through the intergovernmental agreements with the entities so it will be able bring the HUM Railroad Prairie site before the Commission for final approval at the Commission's September, 2011 meeting.

Kevin Ivers, MCCD, stated that he wanted to give a special thank you to Mr. Byers and Mr. Nelson for their leadership and support, and he wanted to thank the entire staff of the INPC. He

stated that he has been learning about the Commission's commitment across many levels in terms of preservation, protection, and stewardship.

Chair Rosenthal thanked Ms. Kessler and Mr. Ivers for their comments. She stated that preserving land in Illinois is a partnership, and it has been a pleasure to work towards this great end.

207-21) Lake Co. – Correction in Legal Description in the Dedication Agreement for an Addition to Illinois Beach Nature Preserve

Randy Heidorn stated that the 60.73-acre addition to Illinois Beach Nature Preserve was given final approval for dedication at the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the INPC (Resolution 105) on July 24, 1969. The dedication document was recorded in Lake County on September 10, 1969. The IDNR recently identified an error in the legal description consisting of the listing of the wrong section number. The section number in the second paragraph of the legal description should be section number three. The corrected legal description will need to be approved by the Commission, attached to the original dedication document, and re-recorded.

It was moved by Thomas, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission approves the correction in the legal description, due to a scrivener's error, for the addition to Illinois Beach Nature Preserve in Lake County, as presented under Item 21 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting. The document will be re-recorded with the Lake County Recorder's Office.

(Resolution 2133)

A lunch break was taken from 12:22 p.m. – 1:06 p.m.

207-22) McHenry Co. – Bicycle Trail Construction Request, Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve  
(Actually presented after Item 13)

Dick Westfall, IDNR, presented a PowerPoint presentation. The IDNR is seeking approval for the construction and maintenance of a bicycle trail within the Pike Marsh Unit of Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve. The proposed trail would extend approximately 1,000 lineal feet along the southern boundary of the Nature Preserve, in part, along an existing access lane and completely within an existing natural gas pipeline easement. A permanently impacted paved width of ten feet is proposed with an approximately 20-foot width of total impact due to installation of woven fence at five feet from edge of trail and establishment of turf-grass shoulders. Trail alignment considerations were made in consultation with IDNR and INPC staff. The proposed alignment within the Nature Preserve would minimize impacts to the surrounding wetland complex and is within an area subject to periodic tree and brush clearing for maintenance of the pipeline easement. Tree impacts include removal of two desirable trees (oak and hickory) over six inches diameter at breast height (dbh) and numerous saplings less than six inches dbh. Other less desirable species of trees would be impacted, but these include species typically targeted for removal as part of restoration activities (i.e., boxelder, mulberry, cottonwood). The proposed



project would require replacement of a bridge in poor condition with an at-grade crossing lying over two culverts to maintain existing drainage. This bicycle trail project is a connecting segment between McHenry County trails and Lake County's Millennium Trail system and part of the regional Grand Illinois Trail network.

Commissioner Thomas asked why the trail was being edged with turf grass.

Mr. Westfall stated that the trail will be built to federal bicycle standards, and a two foot shoulder is required. The shoulder could be a paved shoulder, an aggregate shoulder, or a mowed shoulder. It was felt that a turf shoulder was more compatible in this location.

Jenny Skufca presented the INPC staff opinion which is attached as Exhibit D. INPC staff recommends that the IDNR's request to construct a bicycle trail link within Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve be approved with the following stipulations:

- No impact to high quality natural areas or State-listed species,
- Erosion control practices shall be implemented and monitored throughout the duration of the project; no pulses of silt shall enter the high quality marsh; the installation of any silt fences shall be considered in consultation with INPC's Natural Areas Preservation Specialist (NAPS) John Nelson and/or IDNR's District Heritage Biologist (DHB) Brad Semel to ensure that turtle movement is NOT inhibited to/from the wetlands north of the proposed trail to/from the slopes south of the proposed trail where they are known to nest,
- All heavy equipment shall be power-washed to remove invasive seed,
- All staging areas shall be away from the Nature Preserve,
- Seeding specifications shall be approved by the NAPS Nelson and/or the DHB Semel,
- No work shall occur March 1 to July 15 due to wetland-dependent bird nesting activity in the marsh immediately north and adjacent to the proposed trail alignment,
- Blanding's turtle records exist adjacent to the proposed bike trail footprint, therefore:
  - ❖ Educate all on-site personnel, including the provision of photographs, regarding the species' status of protection and response methods for encounters.
  - ❖ If a Blanding's turtle or any eggs are encountered, personnel should contact NAPS Nelson and/or DHB Semel immediately.
  - ❖ Trenches can trap turtles and should be routinely inspected throughout the day to ensure no turtles are trapped. Check before backfilling, cover at the end of each day, and return to original grade when project is completed.
- One or more access gates shall be placed along the north fence for personnel and equipment to move between the bicycle trail and the Nature Preserve for management,
- NAPS Nelson and DHB Semel shall be notified of any pre-construction meetings and commencement of work on the proposed project,
- Illinois Nature Preserve Commission signs shall be placed along the north fence, and, if feasible, interpretive signage identifying the protection status and the high

- quality resources of the site,  
If approved, the Master Plan for Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve shall be amended to reflect the approval of the bicycle trail in this location.

Commissioner Dann asked about the maintenance of the turf grass shoulder.

John Nelson stated that the grass shoulder will be mowed a couple times a year. No fertilizer or irrigation will be used. The park staff at Moraine Hills State Park will be using the Park's machinery to maintain the shoulder. The vegetation management for the pipeline easement is done by the pipeline company approximately every ten years.

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Flemal, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission approves the bicycle trail construction request for Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve in McHenry County pursuant to the staff recommendations, as presented under Item 22 of the Agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 2134)

207-23) Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

207-24) Other Business

Chair Rosenthal stated that an issue has been raised regarding the difficulty experienced by the INPC in maintaining stewardship on the properties enrolled in the Illinois Nature Preserves System. Staff has been stretched really thin and has not able to get to everything. There has been discussion that a task force be convened to discuss ways the Commission might creatively solve this problem. One suggestion was when an organization brings a site to be dedicated or registered there would be stewardship funding set aside that goes along with the dedication/registration. She stated that several Commissioners have expressed willingness to participate in the task force, and it has been suggested that the INPC Advisors and Consultants be asked to participate as well.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission authorizes the Chair to assemble a task force composed of Commissioners, Commission Advisors and Commission Consultants for the purpose of exploring methods of increasing resources for the support of the Commission's mission.

(Resolution 2135)

207-25) Adjournment

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Thomas, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702  
217/785-8686

## Exhibit A

**To:** Commissioners  
**From:** Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, and Randy Heidorn  
**Date:** February 4, 2011  
**Subject:** Staff Report for the 207<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

### **I. Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Operations:**

- A. Randy Heidorn, Angella Moorehouse, and selected Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Natural Heritage staff conducted interviews for hiring new Natural Heritage Resident Interns. INPC will have residents located in Area 1 (Nelson), 4 (Moorehouse) and 8 (Edgin). It is hoped that the residents will start within the next month.
- B. Jenny Skufca:
  - 1. Coordinated scheduling and delivery of the INPC Photographic Exhibition. The exhibit is currently displayed at Macon County Conservation District's Rock Springs Nature Center until February 27, 2011.
  - 2. Supported a mapping initiative to digitally update INPC site maps utilizing legal descriptions.
- C. At the INPC Chair's request, INPC staff developed a Facebook page.
  - 1. A design and operation plan for the page was written by Randy Heidorn with input by INPC staff and Chair Rosenthal. Mr. Heidorn drafted and then published the page on January 1, 2011.
  - 2. Kim Roman serves as the lead administrator of the page with Randy Heidorn serving as a backup.
  - 3. Randy Heidorn, Deborah Stone, Kelly Neal, and Jenny Skufca will also serve as administrators, primarily for monitoring purposes. Debbie Reider will serve as a backup monitor as needed.
  - 4. Staff has promoted four events, including the INPC meeting, on the page. Photo albums centered on volunteer work days, INPC activities, and protected features of the Nature Preserve System have been posted.
- D. Mary Kay Solecki reviewed all protection proposals, Nature Preserve (NP) documents, and Land and Water Reserve (LWR) documents for the 207<sup>th</sup> INPC meeting. She also provided staff support concerning dedications and new procedures for registering LWRs.

### **II. Training, Presentations, and Meetings Attended:**

- A. Randy Heidorn, Jenny Skufca, and Kelly Neal attended meetings of the Division of Natural Heritage and Partners.
- B. Randy Heidorn presented an opening plenary address at the 37<sup>th</sup> Natural Areas Conference at Tan Tara Resort, in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri entitled: "The natural areas movement as incubator of natural resource conservation trends." This presentation was filmed and will become available on the Natural Areas Association web site for viewing.
- C. INPC field staff attended informational meeting with Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Director, Marc Miller.
- D. John Nelson:
  - 1. Gave a presentation on the NPs of the Boone Creek Watershed to representatives from Loyola University. The University is starting an Ecology Campus near Julia M. & Royce L. Parker Fen NP.
  - 2. Attended herbicide workshop sponsored by the University of Wisconsin at Horicon Marsh.
- E. Steven Byers:
  - 1. Continued to serve as co-chair of Chicago Wilderness (CW) Natural Resources Management Team, and represent the INPC on a CW Coordinating Group and CW Steering Committee.
  - 2. Represented the INPC at a Tree Farmers meeting hosted by the IDNR at the home of Richard and Betty Hegner, owners of the Halo Hill Tree Farm and Artists Retreat LWR.
  - 3. Participated in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Partners for the Preserves Founding Meeting.
- F. Kim Roman:
  - 1. Attended training on the emerald ash borer at Franklin Creek State Natural Area.
  - 2. Attended a railroad emergency response training hosted by Canadian National.
  - 3. Drafted an article on implementing fire at Goose Lake Prairie for its quarterly newsletter.

- G. Angella Moorehouse:
  - 1. Assisted Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in hosting a Hill Prairie Workshop in support of the Hill Prairie State Wildlife Grant project. She gave presentations on what a hill prairie is and the Illinois prescribed burn legislation. Ms. Moorehouse also conducted a tour of Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NP and assisted with a prescribed burn of the south ridge as part of the Hill Prairie Workshop.
  - 2. Assisted IDNR Heritage staff with Bald Eagle Appreciation Days in Keokuk, Iowa.
- H. Tom Lerczak:
  - 1. Completed online training for procurement communications reporting.
  - 2. Authored an article: "Ten Years at a Mason County, Illinois, FeederWatch Station," which was published in *Illinois Audubon* magazine (winter 2010-2011 issue).
- I. Bob Edgin attended the announcement ceremony for the Wabash River Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program initiation.
- J. Bob Edgin and Debbie Reider
  - 1. Completed Incidence Command System ICS-200 for Single Resources and Initial Action Incident training.
  - 2. Completed IS-800 Incidence System National Response Framework, An Introduction.
- K. Debbie Reider participated and completed Command and General Staff Incident Command training sponsored by the IDNR.
- L. Debbie Reider and Randy Heidorn participated in Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) training conducted by the National Incident Management Organization, a U. S. Forest Service Type 1 IMT that was held at the IDNR headquarters building. Randy Heidorn also participated in meetings of the Illinois IMT 3, which he is a member.

### **III. Inventory and Monitoring:**

- A. Several field staff assisted INAI staff with updating and collecting inventory data on sites in their areas or providing landowner contact information.
- B. John Nelson updated natural community maps for Boone Creek Fen NP, Gladstone Fen NP, and Hereen Prairie NP.
- C. Angella Moorehouse conducted two Midwinter Bald Eagle Surveys along the Mississippi River for Iowa and Illinois.
- D. Tom Lerczak:
  - 1. Conducted site surveillance at 12 NPs, LWRs or Natural Heritage Landmarks (NHLs).
  - 2. Conducted overwintering bird surveys with emphasis on the red-headed woodpecker, at Walden West LWR and Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP.
- E. Mary Kay Solecki:
  - 1. Conducted site surveillance/monitoring at Howard's Hollow Seep NP, Little Vermilion River LWR (and site inventory at potential addition), Baber Woods NP, Middle Fork Woods NP, and Russell M. Duffin NP.
  - 2. Participated in mussel survey of two streams in Edgar County.
- F. Bob Edgin:
  - 1. Participated in the Jasper County Christmas Bird Count.
  - 2. Co-authored published manuscript entitled: "Fire History of a post oak (*Quercus stellata* Wang.) woodland in Hamilton County, Illinois U.S.A."
  - 3. Completed 2010 INAI site surveillance forms for 34 sites.
  - 4. Completed Annual Monitoring Forms for Padgett Pin Oak Woods LWR, Padgett Brothers Sweet Gum Woods LWR, Karl Bartel Wildlife Sanctuary LWR, Richard R. and Jean W. Graber Grasslands LWR, Marjorie J. Brines White Oak Woods LWR, Edward V. Price Woods LWR, and Lost Creek Marsh LWR.

### **IV. Protection Program:**

- A. Staff met with landowners and managers to plan and draft protection proposals that are on the agenda for the 207<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- B. John Nelson:
  - 1. Contacted the owner of Earl and Olive Bothe Prairie NHL and Debbie Carey, Dixon Park District, to discuss management and possible long-term protection.
  - 2. Contacted the new owner of Hereen Prairie NP.

3. Continued dialogue with several landowners of INAI sites in Ogle, JoDaviess, Winnebago, and McHenry counties.
- C. Steven Byers:
1. Corresponded with Elgin Parks and Recreation Advisory Board regarding the significance of Trout Park River's Edge and need to protect the site as a LWR.
  2. Had discussions and did site visits with Openlands staff regarding the opportunity to dedicate Lake Michigan shoreline preserve and Deer Grove East.
  3. Had ongoing discussions with McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) regarding opportunities to enroll District sites in the NP System, including Alden Sedge Meadow, HUM Prairie and additions to Elizabeth Lake NP.
  4. Provided a presentation on "Forested Fen" to The Conservation Foundation Board of Directors/funders, and led a tour of site.
  5. Met with staff of the Liberty Prairie Conservancy and consultant with Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove NP in an ongoing effort to secure protection of adjacent 20-acre tract and to resolve status of eight-acre tract located adjacent to the site that received preliminary approval for dedication as NP.
  6. Conducted a site visit at Belmont Prairie NP to evaluate opportunities for additions to the site.
  7. Represented the IDNR and INPC on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge feasibility study team.
    - a. Drafted an IDNR letter of support for the refuge for IDNR Assistant Director Rogner.
    - b. Gave a presentation on the proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge to CW Corporate Council and at the CW Congress.
    - c. Hosted USFWS "open houses" about the proposed refuge and gave a presentation to regional land trust organizations about their role in a proposed refuge.
  8. Coordinated with CW partners to identify, evaluate, and respond to Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding opportunities.
  9. Represented the INPC at a Lake County Visioning meeting; a collaborative effort by natural resource agencies to protect approximately 20% of Lake County as open space.
- D. Kim Roman:
1. Met with a private landowner in the Pembroke area to discuss INPC's protection programs.
  2. Maintained contact with landowners of seven sites in the NP System.
- E. Angella Moorehouse:
1. Participated in a meeting with the Rock Island County SWCD and Interstate Resources Conservation and Development to coordinate meetings for the development of an implementation plan for the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) for the Quad Cities in support of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP).
  2. Participated in a working group meeting hosted by the Natural Land Institute (NLI) in the Quad Cities and attended by representatives from the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, River Action, Interstate Resource Conservation and Development Program, and private landowners of INAI sites. The purpose of meeting was to discuss funding concerns and the role of the NLI in the Quad Cities.
  3. Maintained landowner contact with owners of 38 sites enrolled in INPC programs.
  4. Contacted owners of 11 unprotected natural areas and two potential natural areas.
- F. Tom Lerczak:
1. Established landowner contacts for 15 natural areas, NPs, LWRs or NHLs.
  2. Began working on two IDNR proposals for sites in the Mason County Sand Areas COA.
- G. Mary Kay Solecki:
1. Met with Prairie Rivers Network staff and provided input into draft action plan for the Vermilion River COA.
  2. Participated in two meetings of watershed constituents to create an action plan for the Vermilion River COA.
  3. Held a landowner contact meeting with Butler Township Board to discuss benefits of a NP or LWR designation for Pellville Cemetery INAI site.
  4. Met with IDNR staff regarding a possible addition of IDNR land to Little Vermilion River LWR.
- H. Bob Edgin:
1. Met with directors of the Crawford County Forest Preserve District to discuss future management and protection of its properties.
  2. Contacted owners of two unprotected sites on the INAI to discuss protection options.

3. Evaluated two non-INAI sites to determine their eligibility for registration as LWRs.

#### **V. Land Acquisition:**

- A. John Nelson recommended IDNR accept a land donation to Moraine Hills State Park.
- B. Kim Roman:
  1. Assisted Friends of the Kankakee with evaluating properties for purchase near Iroquois Sands LWR.
  2. Discussed land acquisition options with a Pembroke area neighbor of a LWR.
- C. Tom Lerczak:
  1. Facilitated discussion on the possible purchase of an archaeological site.
  2. Provided information and advice to a landowner interested in selling his INAI site.
- D. Mary Kay Solecki worked on acquisition of Rock Cut Road Botanical Area INAI site and Warbler Woods NP.

#### **VI. Defense Program:**

- A. Jenny Skufca:
  1. Responded to seven reviews for IDNR's Comprehensive Environmental Review Program (CERP) and 25 reviews for IDNR's consultation program.
  2. Has been in the process of preparing Class III Groundwater Petition packets for six NPs to be submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), including George B. Fell NP, Goose Lake Prairie NP, Spring Grove Fen NP, Trout Park NP, Cotton Creek Marsh NP, and Gladstone Fen NP.
  3. Participated in a conference call on December 15, 2010, with West Shore Pipeline Company and other stakeholders related to an oil release across New Avenue from Long Run Seep NP. No impacts to the NP have been identified. IDNR Contaminant Assessment staff and the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) consultants are providing recommendations to the responsible party and providing updates to INPC.
  4. Gave a presentation to the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives manager's meeting to discuss protections in place for Illinois NPs and LWRs. Rights-of-way and easement discussions with electric cooperatives are ongoing.
  5. Participated in meetings and conference calls with wind energy development companies with potential projects adjacent to Illinois NPs or LWRs. Provided correspondence to Monroe County regarding potential impacts to natural areas from wind development.
- B. Angella Moorehouse consulted with IDNR Consultation staff on the potential impacts of a proposed wind power installation in northern McDonough County in the vicinity of two INPC sites (Short Fork Seep NP and Thistle Hills LWR), Sciota Railroad Prairie INAI, and several element occurrence records (EORs).
- C. Tom Lerczak coordinated the signing of the final *de minimus* finding agreement for the Sheridan Road culvert replacement at Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR.
- D. Mary Kay Solecki:
  1. Worked with IDNR Consultation staff to determine and minimize impacts of the E.ON Pioneer Trail wind farm on Clarence RR Prairie East INAI Site, Clarence RR Prairie West INAI Site, Pellville Cemetery INAI site and Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP.
  2. Worked with concerned citizens and the owner of Pellville Cemetery INAI site to alleviate a mowing threat to the prairie. A neighbor to the prairie publicized on local TV news his belief that the prairie should be mowed. In response, Grand Prairie Friends and Ms. Solecki worked with local conservationists to focus attention on the value of the prairie as an unmowed natural area.
- E. Threats to Sites within INPC programs:
  1. **Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP, Champaign County – Mary Kay Solecki**
    - a. Issue: The wind turbine proposed by the University of Illinois on adjacent property potentially will cast shadow flicker on to the NP.
    - b. Threat: Shadow flicker and noise has the potential to disrupt communities within the NP.
    - c. Status: Ongoing. Worked with IDNR Consultation staff and Barnhart Prairie Restoration Board to mitigate impacts of proposed wind turbine.
  2. **Bluff Spring Fen NP, Cook County – Steven Byers, John Nelson, Jenny Skufca**
    - a. Issue: Salt storage. Up to 50,000 tons of road de-icing salt is being stored on the property owned by Bluff City Materials (BCM) which is located immediately south of the NP.

- b. Threat: At concentrations above 45 mg/L, chlorides (salt) are a known pollutant that can alter the chemical composition of groundwater that sustains fen wetland systems and are documented to promote a shift from a diverse assemblage of plants to monotypic stands of salt-tolerant plants.
  - c. Status: Ongoing. A meeting was held at the IDNR headquarters on September 14, 2010, with representatives of BCM, INPC staff, and IDNR Legal Counsel. BCM representatives described current and future plans for the salt pile. INPC staff reiterated concerns regarding the salt piles' lack of containment, potential for contamination of fen due to exposure to wind and precipitation, and observed spillage at the loading and unloading area. A follow-up conference call was held on November 3, 2010, between BCM representatives and INPC staff during which BCM again provided a review of its plans. BCM was reminded by Randy Heidorn that the INPC will continue to monitor the situation since road salt is a substance known to degrade fens. As a result of this call and on advisement from IDNR legal counsel, the INPC submitted a letter to BCM on December 13, 2010, to document concerns regarding the inappropriate location of the salt pile, the fact that minimum industry standards for storing salt were not being met, and to inform BCM of the INPC's intention to refer the matter to the Illinois Attorney General if salt movement was detected toward the fen. On January 13, 2011, correspondence was received from BCM outlining its commitment to best management practices and to preserving the integrity of the fen while honoring its contractual obligation to the salt supplier. On January 25, 2011, a conference call was held between representatives of BCM and INPC staff. BCM reported that all salt had been shipped, and the yard was empty. INPC staff informed BCM that we would continue to monitor any potential salt movement toward the fen, and we would continue to consult with the IEPA as groundwater authorities.
2. **DesPain Wetlands LWR, St. Clair County – Debbie Newman, Jenny Skufca**
- a. Issue: A neighbor to the LWR had a survey done and posted boundaries on the LWR, claiming an additional 30-50' for his property.
  - b. Threat: The neighbor's survey contradicts the LWR landowner's previous survey suggesting encroachment into the LWR.
  - c. Status: Ongoing. No response was received to the August 30, 2010, letter submitted to the LWR neighbor. The neighbor's surveyor refused to provide a copy of his survey when contacted by INPC staff. The LWR landowner has requested that INPC staff send a certified, receipt-requested follow-up letter to the neighbor informing him that the survey they hold will serve as the legal boundary until such time that the neighbor can provide evidence to the contrary.
3. **Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid NP, Lake County – Steven Byers**
- a. Issue: The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) intends to widen Route 22. The proposal for dedication of this site provided for this construction, to include construction of a berm in order to reduce the width of the road project.
  - b. Threat: Indirect threat posed by sedimentation and subsequent increase in reed canary grass, which threatens the long-term viability of the federally-threatened orchid.
  - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff submitted a letter to IDOT District 1 Engineer, Peter Harmet, requesting that IDOT purchase the NP fee-title or establish a memorandum of understanding with the landowner that allows IDOT access of site for monitoring and management. IDOT has determined that the road-widening project will impact the orchids. INPC staff met with all parties. IDOT is currently exploring options to acquire the tract and support a management effort in order to expedite the permitting process with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the USFWS.
4. **Goodenow Grove NP, Will County – Kim Roman**
- a. Issue: Construction of an I-394 sound barrier along the edge of the NP.
  - b. Threat: Personnel safety during management activities and proposed tree cutting within the NP.
  - c. Status: Resolved. Plans were adjusted to accommodate management and minimize impacts to trees.
5. **Gillespie Prairie LWR, Macoupin County – Tom Lerczak, Jenny Skufca**
- a. Issue: An adjacent landowner to this IDNR-owned site proposed to clean out a ditch adjacent to Route 16 and along the LWR boundary.
  - b. Threat: Encroachment to the LWR.
  - c. Status: Resolved. After discussion among the landowner, INPC staff, and IDNR staff, the INPC provided stipulations for the work to be completed minimizing impacts to the LWR. INPC and IDNR staff monitored the heavy equipment work and photo-documented the successful ditch clean out with no impact to the LWR except for flattened vegetation at the boundary.



6. **Little Vermilion River LWR, Vermillion County – Mary Kay Solecki, Kelly Neal**
  - a. Issue: An underground coal refuse pile within the LWR caught fire which presented a public safety hazard and necessitated its excavation and extinguishment.
  - b. Threat: Damage to the LWR resources and the public hazard.
  - c. Status: Resolved. Coordinated INPC and IDNR staff review of IDNR specifications to extinguish the coal refuse pile fire. Compiled the comments with the appropriate stipulations and prepared the INPC's approval. The fire appears to have gone out.
7. **Middlefork Savanna NP, Lake County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
  - a. Issue: The adjacent landowner, Knollwood Club, dredged a golf course pond and piped sediment into the NP.
  - b. Threat: Direct and indirect impact on aquatic resources/ephemeral ponds in the NP and at the Knollwood Club. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined wetlands are "jurisdictional." The Knollwood Club has prepared a remedial action plan, a portion of which has been implemented.
  - c. Status: Ongoing. The INPC submitted a letter to the Knollwood Club on August 27, 2010, enumerating the impacts, the violations to the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (INAPA), and a recommendation to engage in mitigation strategies with potential of referral to Illinois Attorney General. Response correspondence was received from the Knollwood Club on December 22, 2010, requesting the INPC's assistance in resolving this issue with the landowner (Lake County Forest Preserve District) and noting that all parties' concerns have been met by their proposed remediation plan and its willingness to create a "buffer zone." The INPC will review the plan and be a party to an enforcement action from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which may lead to permanent protection and stewardship of approximately 10 acres owned by the Knollwood Club.
8. **Nenawakwa LWR, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
  - a. Issue: The landowner discovered a grading encroachment within the LWR.
  - b. Threat: Unauthorized intrusion into the LWR, including tire ruts and a large graded area leading to neighbor's property.
  - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Conservation Police filed a report on or around August 21, 2010, with the McDonough County State's Attorney's Office (SA) for review. The SA filed criminal trespass charges against the responsible party on or around September 23, 2010. Upon the landowner's request, the INPC submitted correspondence on October 8, 2010, to the SA outlining additional potential offenses under INAPA and provided bids for restoration of the damage to the LWR. A bench trial was set and then delayed due to the amended charges. A new trial date was set for January 24, 2011, but was continued due to a change in the defendant's attorney. INPC staff and the landowner are working with the SA and the defendant's attorney to attempt a reasonable settlement prior to the court date.
9. **Old Plank Road Prairie NP, Cook County – Kim Roman**
  - a. Issue: Spoil pile containing dirt and rock located within the NP.
  - b. Threat : Direct destruction of the NP resources.
  - c. Status: Resolved. Correspondence requesting removal was submitted to the landowner responsible, Rich Township. The intrusion was subsequently removed.
10. **Romeoville Prairie NP, Will County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca**
  - a. Issue: Enbridge pipeline break less than one-half mile from the NP boundary.
  - b. Threat: Potential for crude oil constituents to contaminate surface and groundwater in the NP affecting a diversity of flora and fauna, including numerous federally-listed and state-listed species.
  - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff are working with landowner (Forest Preserve District of Will County), IEPA, IDNR, and ISGS staff to monitor the oil's movement and document any adverse modifications. On November 16, 2010, INPC staff participated in a meeting with the landowner and consultants to Enbridge to identify potential projects that would benefit the NP. INPC, IDNR, and ISGS staff, acting as technical advisors to IEPA, have recently reviewed and provided comments regarding Enbridge's Site Investigation Report.
11. **Short Fork Seep NP, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
  - a. Issue: The landowner discovered that herbicide had been used within the NP, approximately 17 feet from the roadway associated with power line maintenance.

- b. Threat: Direct impact to flora and fauna in the NP causing damage to the vegetation and soils within the high-quality portion of the seep/sedge meadow of the NP.
  - c. Status: Ongoing. The INPC submitted a letter to the McDonough Power Cooperative on November 18, 2010, with an accompanying estimate for restoration of the damaged area. A response was received from the Cooperative's attorney on December 16, 2010, purporting to have a prescriptive easement and suggesting that this was a public use under Section 14 of INAPA. The attorney stated that McDonough Power did not believe replacing the impacted flora was a reasonable long-term solution. IDNR Legal Counsel is reviewing the letter and will advise on the INPC's response.
12. **Salt Lick Point LWR, Monroe County – Debbie Newman**
- a. Issue: An individual bulldozed approximately one-fourth of an acre across the LWR line.
  - b. Threat: Encroachment in the LWR.
  - c. Status: Resolved. INPC staff worked with the IDNR Conservation Police and the local Valmeyer Police. INPC staff, a Conservation Police Officer (CPO), and an officer from the Valmeyer Police visited the neighbor and discussed the situation. The CPO issued a ticket which required a court appearance. Prosecution resulted in the neighbor receiving a fine of \$257, including court costs, and one year supervision. The neighbor also agreed to clean up trash dumped on the LWR which was left decades ago by someone else. This action has been completed.
13. **Sterne's Fen NP, McHenry County – Steven Byers**
- a. Issue: An adjacent landowner has requested that the Crystal Lake Park District (owner of the site) review the hydrology at the site. That landowner is concerned that altered hydrology has led to increased incidence and severity of flooding.
  - b. Threat: Fen wetlands are sensitive to changes in hydrology/surface water that enter fen wetlands. Fen plant communities are sensitive to altered surface water chemistry, temperatures, and frequently increased amounts of pollutants.
  - c. Status: New. INPC staff met with staff of the Crystal Lake Park District (CLPD) and the MCCD at a site visit. A number of issues were raised regarding the current and original surface water flow paths and the source of apparently increased amounts of surface water. The INPC has asked the CLPD and the MCCD (responsible for maintenance of a regional bike trail) not to clear any drainage ways until some of the questions raised during the site visit can be resolved. Those investigations are pending.
14. **Tallmadge Sand Forest LWR, Kankakee County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca**
- a. Issue: 88 white oak trees were removed from within the LWR in 2009.
  - b. Threat: Direct impact to the LWR. Unauthorized removal of trees, over 4,000 feet of up to 18-inch ruts were created throughout the interior of the LWR, and signs were removed.
  - c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Conservation Police are investigating. The Nature Conservancy, as landowner, has filed a civil lawsuit. INPC staff is working closely with IDNR Legal Counsel.

## **VII. Stewardship Program:**

- A. Kelly Neal:
  - 1. Attended two meetings of the Volunteer Stewardship Network with representatives from volunteer groups in northern and central Illinois.
  - 2. Attended the annual Plants of Concern Advisory Group meeting.
  - 3. Developed an application form for management activities that have not been previously approved in a management plan.
- B. Randy Heidorn, John Nelson, Kim Roman, Angella Moorehouse, Tom Lerczak, Mary Kay Solecki, Debbie Newman, and Bob Edgin attended the Natural Heritage Division/INPC restoration summit.
- C. Tom Lerczak coordinated the Fiscal Year 2011 sign and herbicide orders.
- D. Mary Kay Solecki:
  - 1. Reviewed and provided input on the Invasive Plant Policy for Master Gardeners of Champaign County and east central Illinois.
  - 2. Participated in reintroduction of the northern riffleshell mussel into a stream in the Vermilion River system.
- E. Bob Edgin discussed management and other issues with owners of Big Creek Woods Memorial NP, Karcher's Post Oak Woods NP, Allison Gravel Prairie NHL, Carroll Cox Forest NHL, Dry Fork Woods NHL, Ping Prairie at Huskey Hollow NHL, and Wade Heiser Woods NHL.
- F. Stewardship Planning:

1. Kelly Neal reviewed:
  - a. 21 management schedules, nine unscheduled management activities and three management related CERPs at INPC sites.
  - b. Deer management plans for five sites in Lake County and four sites in Will County.
  - c. Prepared comments for IDNR's Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) Recovery Outline.
2. John Nelson wrote new or updated management plans for Boone Creek Fen NP, Gladstone Fen NP, Yonder Prairie NP, and Hereen Prairie NP.
3. Steven Byers:
  - a. Had discussions with Davey Resources Group, City of Elgin, and Friends of Trout Park the regarding management that would be acceptable to the INPC at Trout Park NP.
  - b. Met with The Conservation Foundation staff to review priorities for allocation of funds held for stewardship at Bluff Spring Fen NP, Trout Park NP, Brewster Creek Fen NP, Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP, Dixie Fromm Briggs Prairie NP, Sterne's Fen NP, and Fox River Fen NP.
  - c. Presented a PowerPoint presentation for Libertyville Township about the INPC, Liberty Prairie NP and issues regarding the need to reroute trail at this NP, and discussions with the Township and the Liberty Prairie Conservancy.
  - d. Provided a five-year management schedule and management goal statement for Bluff Spring Fen NP in support of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for a stewardship project.
  - e. Coordinated a grant to CW to conduct stewardship at Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove NP.
4. Kim Roman:
  - a. Provided technical assistance/guidance to ComEd to avoid/reduce impact to the prairie remnant under its transmission lines during major maintenance activities adjacent to Goose Lake Prairie NP.
  - b. Developed/updated management plans for three sites.
  - c. Discussed LWR rules, management strategies, and development plans with new staff of the landowning agency of Butterfield Creek Headwaters LWR.
  - d. Met with and coordinated volunteer efforts at Old Plank Road Prairie NP and its addition.
5. Angella Moorehouse:
  - a. Met with the Peoria Park District and Tri-County Development to determine stewardship projects and funding options for Springdale Cemetery Savanna NHL and NPs owned/managed by the Park District.
  - b. Coordinated with the Rock Island County SWCD and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to implement a National Forest Service Hazardous Fuels Grant to reduce fuel loads, control invasive species, and implement fire management at Black Hawk Forest NP and Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NP.
  - c. Coordinated with IDNR Office of Resource Conservation (ORC) staff, Prairie Rivers Network and local partners to develop long-term plans for the Upper Mississippi River COA to achieve goals set by the IWAP.
6. Tom Lerczak:
  - a. Met with Friends of McNaughton Park (Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR) to discuss natural area restoration options and planning for 2011.
  - b. Attended a Bureau County SWCD Board of Directors meeting to discuss management of McCune Sand Prairie LWR.
  - c. Met with partners involved with the Mason County Sand Areas COA to discuss management and protection options.
  - d. Completed new 2011 prescribed burn plans for Mettler Woods NP and McCune Sand Prairie LWR.
7. Mary Kay Solecki:
  - a. Attended a meeting of the Barnhart Prairie Board regarding stewardship at Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP.
  - b. Wrote or updated management schedules for Sibley Grove NP and Embarrass Bluffs NHL.
  - c. Wrote a prescribed burn plan and/or permit for Embarrass Bluffs NHL and Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP.
8. Debbie Newman participated in day-long meeting in Sparta with IDNR, ORC, and Land Management staff about stiltgrass and the overall IDNR invasives strategic plan and policy.
9. Bob Edgin developed an Annual Reporting Form for LWRs.

- G. Stewardship project implementation: Staff continued to coordinate and administer stewardship projects, including the Hill Prairie Project, funded by Landowners Incentive Program (LIP), State Wildlife Grant (SWG), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, an IEPA 319 Grant, the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund, CW Grants, and INPC operations fund. These projects involve meeting with landowners, securing landowner agreements, preparing grant applications, preparing bid packages, supervising contractors, and assisting in conducting restoration activities. Contractor work included prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, prescribed burn site preparation, and burn crews. Sites where this kind of work occurred include:
1. Area 1 (Nelson): Freeport Prairie NP, eight NP sites in the Boone Creek Watershed, and Kinnikinnick Creek NP.
  2. Area 2 (Byers): Wolf Road Prairie NP.
  3. Area 3 (Kim Roman): Kankakee River NP, and federal Great Lakes money to implement exotics control at Superior Street Prairie LWR.
  4. Area 4 (Moorehouse): Harper's Woods NP, Black Hawk Forest NP, Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NP, Milan Bottoms (Andalusia Slough) INAI site.
  5. Area 5 (Lerczak): Ridgetop Hill Prairie NP, Wiegand Prairie NHL, Chandlerville Cemetery Hill Prairie LWR, Crevecoeur NP, McCune Sand Prairie LWR, Walden West LWR, Illinois River Sand Areas LWR.
  6. Area 6 (Solecki): Doris Westfall Prairie Restoration NP and Baber Woods NP.
- H. Land management conducted by staff includes site surveillance, prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, coordinating and working with volunteers, prescribed burn site preparation, and participating in or leading prescribed burns. Sites where this kind of work occurred and additional management related activities include:
1. Area 1 (Nelson):
    - a. Kinnikinnick Creek NP, Freeport Prairie NP, Boone Creek Fen NP, Wilson Prairie NP, Harlem Hills NP.
    - b. Participated in nine prescribed burns at protected sites and acted as burn boss on three of the burns.
  2. Area 2 (Byers):
    - a. Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove NP, Powderhorn Prairie and Marsh NP, Raceway Woods NHL, Bluff Spring Fen NP, Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP, Wolf Road Prairie NP.
    - b. Led or participated in burns at Sterne's Fen NP, Gladstone Fen NP, Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow NP, Boone Creek INAI, and Bluff Spring Fen NP.
  2. Area 3 (Kim Roman): Sweet Fern Savanna LWR, Goose Lake Prairie NP, Green River INAI site, Kankakee River NP, Short Pioneer Cemetery Prairie NP, Grant Creek Prairie NP, Superior Street Prairie LWR, Old Plank Road Prairie NP, and the proposed Hildy Prairie Nature Preserve.
  3. Area 5 (Lerczak):
    - a. Chandlerville-Snyder Hill Prairie Natural Area.
    - b. Burn boss at Walden West LWR, assisted with prescribed burn at Beaver Dam State Park, coordinated burn preparation activities with partners at Carpenter Park NP, and Tomlin Timber NP.
  4. Area 6 (Solecki): Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP, Loda Cemetery Prairie NP, Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP, Margaret Guzy Pothole Wetlands LWR, Elwin Camassia INAI site, and Allerton Park.
  5. Area 8 (Edgin):
    - a. Beadles Barrens NP, Beall Woods NP, Big Creek Woods Memorial NP, Emma Vance Woods NP, Lost Creek Marsh NP and LWR, Rock Cave NP, Marjorie J. Brines White Oak Woods LWR, Padgett Pin Oak Woods LWR, Carroll Cox Forest NHL, Green Prairie NHL, Wade Heiser Woods NHL.
    - b. Assisted IDNR Heritage Biologist Roger Jansen with a prescribed burn at Margaret Guzy Pothole Wetlands LWR.

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
report to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission  
at the 207<sup>th</sup> meeting, February 9, 2011**

**Natural Heritage Resident Interns**

We held interviews in Springfield for 8 Natural Heritage Resident Interns. The resident intern is a one-year, paid, full-time position with DNR where students working on a Masters degree in biology gain work experience by assisting Natural Heritage Biologists or Nature Preserves Commission Preservation Specialists in the field. 4 interns are being hired to assist DHBs, 3 will assist NAPS and 1 will be in the Springfield office assisting the endangered species and database programs. There have been 58 resident interns since the program began in 1993 including Kim Roman and Bob Edgin.

**Sheepnose Mussel**

The U S Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to list the sheepnose mussel as an endangered species. This mussel occurs in the Kankakee River in Illinois including Kankakee River Nature Preserve. The Service is taking comments on the proposed listing till March 21.

**Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month**

May will be Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month again this year with the goal of increasing public awareness of the problems with invasive species. The River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area in Marion is putting together a website and calendar of events. Those planning an event can submit details to the Natural Heritage Division.

**Wildlife Preservation Fund Grants**

Applications are being accepted for the next round of Wildlife Preservation Fund grants. There's a large grant and a small grant (less than \$2000) component to the program. The grant application is available on line and applications are due to DNR by April 1. The Wildlife Preservation Fund is now in its 28<sup>th</sup> year. The Fund generates about \$180,000 in donations each year.

**Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) update**

John Wilker, natural areas program manager for the DNR, will update the Commission on the status of the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory.



## ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

*One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702 - 1271, (217) 785-8687; FAX (217) 785-2438*

### Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board report for the February 9, 2011

#### Illinois Nature Preserves Commission meeting

Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director

The Board held its 148<sup>th</sup> meetings on November 12, 2010. Board actions and other items from that meeting included:

#### 1. ESBP Member Appointments

The Board currently has full membership, so there was no activity since the last INPC meeting.

#### 2. ESPB Research Projects

The Board administers a research program to answer questions regarding the listing, recovery, and conservation as it relates to those aspects, of Illinois' endangered and threatened species. The Board receives a \$25,000 annual allocation from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund to administer the program. Below is a list of FY2011 funded projects.

Title	Researcher/ Institution	Award Amount
Investigating the role of genetic diversity and pollination biology as potential causes for reproductive failure in <i>Asclepias lanuginosa</i> (wooly milkweed).	Jeremie Fant and David Zaya / CBG and UIC	\$7,632
Gene Flow among Populations of the Four-Toed Salamander, <i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i> .	Abigail J. Maley / INHS/UIUC	\$5,000
Evaluation of Distribution, Movements, and Habitat Use of River Redhorse ( <i>Moxostoma carinatum</i> ) and Greater Redhorse ( <i>Moxostoma valenciennisi</i> ) in the Upper Illinois River Basin.	David H. Wahl / INHS/UIUC	\$8,500
Baseline monitoring and molecular characterization of the state endangered Enigmatic Cavesnail, <i>Fontigens antroecetes</i> (Hubricht 1940)	Steven J. Taylor, Marlis Douglas, Jeremy Tiemann, and Robert Weck / INHS/UIUC and individual	\$2,878

#### 3. Meetings and Publications

Ms. Mankowski attended the 2010 USFWS Region 3 Endangered and Threatened Species Coordinators Meeting in Indianapolis from October 4 – 6.

Ms. Mankowski attended a meeting of the Eastern Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*) Recovery Team at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Wilmington, Illinois, on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The team reviewed recent activities and the status of the draft *Illinois Eastern Massasauga (Sistrurus catenatus catenatus) Species Recovery Plan*. The team hopes to sometime soon begin circulating the draft at IDNR as per the ORC Recovery Planning Process. Ms. Mankowski provided suggested comments and edits on the current draft and will also coordinate review with the Board and Herp ESTAC when the draft reaches IDNR.

Ms. Mankowski attended the November 17, 2010 meeting of the Illinois Wildlife Action Team at IDNR headquarters in Springfield, Illinois. The Board is a member of the team. Ms. Mankowski is working

with Jody Shimp, Regional Administrator with IDNR ORC Division of Natural Heritage, on a proposal to possibly include in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan plant species in greatest need of conservation. She provided an update to the team about other state efforts to incorporate plants into their plans.

Ms. Mankowski is working to finalize the Board publication *Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois: Status and Distribution – Volume 4: 2009 and 2010 Changes to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Animal and Plant Species*. This is part of a series of publications that provides a brief species account for each Illinois endangered and threatened species. Historically, upon completion of the 5-year review and revision of the Illinois List, the Board produced two updated volumes – one for all listed plants and one for all listed animals. In recent years, since the Board has had reduced funding and staffing, it has resorted to producing a volume that is a supplement to existing volumes and that provides a summary of changes to the list and species accounts only for newly listed species. IDNR Natural Heritage Database staff Tara Kieninger and Jeannie Barnes provided considerable assistance in the development and review of the document. Upon completion, the document will be published as a PDF to the Board's webpage.

#### **4. Coordination with IDNR and INPC:**

Ms. Mankowski coordinated with the Endangered Species Program ORC, Division of Wildlife ORC, Impact Assessment Section OREP, Office of Land Management, Office of Law Enforcement, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Public Services, Media Relations, and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, on multiple matters, including:

- Worked with IDNR Legal Counsel to complete proposed amendments to the IL E&T Animal List Administrative Rule (Part 1010) to change criteria language to address confusion about federal similarity of appearance listings and to add the Northern Riffleshell (*Epioblasma rangiana*) as federally and Illinois endangered following a reintroduction project in the Vermilion drainage in Illinois.
- Coordinated with IDNR ORC and OREP staff to provide comments to the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document to address the environmental impacts of measures being considered for implementation in Chicago area waterways to prevent Asian carp from dispersing into the Great Lakes. This document will constitute the *Final Efficacy Study for the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barriers Project*, and may be amended or expanded in the future if changed conditions or new information warrant such action.
- Provided IDNR ORC review and comment on a *Proposed Recovery Outline & Pre-planning Tool for the Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)*.
- Continues participating in an IDNR Incident Command System training committee. Prepared for and presented to IDNR Executive Staff, a proposed IDNR Incident Command System Training Program outline.
- Continued project management of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) recovery planning and implementation State Wildlife Grant project (T-35-P-1). The recovery team (Dr. Jeff Walk, Terry Esker, Maggie Cole, Mark Alessi, and Anne Mankowski) completed the recovery plan, it was approved by IDNR and the Board and it is accessible via the Board's webpage. The recovery team held an annual plan of work meeting to schedule activities for CY2011. Bob Bluett, IDNR Division of Wildlife, is assisting the team with field work and is pursuing Fish and Wildlife federal aid funding for out-year activities. Ms. Mankowski also completed and submitted the required SWG project annual report to the USFWS.
- No incidental take authorizations were submitted by the IDNR to the Board for review and comment during the last quarter.
- Fielded and referred 43 requests to IDNR for E&T consultation, incidental take, data, permits, etc.
- Directly responded to 80 requests for ESPB and E&T information from the public and other state and federal agencies.

## 5. Coordination with other Agencies

- Ms. Mankowski continues working with the USFWS Rock Island Field Office, IDNR, and several other partners on a draft of a Decurrent False Aster (*Boltonia decurrens* – federally and IL threatened) Conservation Agreement/Management Agreement for Managed Lands in the Illinois River and Mississippi River Floodplains.
- Ms. Mankowski participated in a conference call for planning of the 2010 USFWS Region 3 and State endangered and threatened species coordinators meeting.
- Ms. Mankowski, working with the Board's Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs) and Tara Kieninger, IDNR Natural Heritage Database Manager, provided data to the USFWS in response to information requests for several species including *Epioblasma triquetra* (Snuffbox, IL E, proposed for Fed E), Rayed Bean, *Cumberlandia monodonta* (Spectaclecase, IL E, under a Fed status assessment), *Plethobasus cyphus* (Sheepnose, IL E, proposed for Fed E), *Villosa fabalis* (Rayed Bean, extirpated from IL, proposed for Fed E), a five-year review of *Trifolium stoloniferum* (Running Buffalo Clover, not known to be extant in Illinois, federally endangered) and a proposed listing and critical habitat review for *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica* (Rabbitsfoot Mussel, IL E, proposed for Fed E).
- Ms. Mankowski coordinated with Tara Kieninger, Illinois Natural Heritage Database Manager, to provide the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) status and distribution information for the Crooked-stem Aster (*Symphyotrichum prenanthoides*).
- Ms. Mankowski accepted a request to provide review of a draft copy of the *Sustainable Natural Areas Vision Plan* being prepared by Dr. Deanna Glosser in conjunction with the Illinois Natural History Survey.
- Ms. Mankowski accepted a request from Dr. Jeff Levengood at the Illinois Natural History Survey to review a draft copy of a manuscript entitled *Status of Endangered and Threatened Sand Area Species of the Illinois Flora*, by Ebinger et al., that will be submitted for consideration for publication as an INHS Bulletin.
- Ms. Mankowski provided Minnesota DNR Endangered Species Coordinator, Rich Baker, information about and explained the history of the Board and its ESTACs and the list review process. Mr. Baker and the MDNR are evaluating the possibility of establishing ESTACs to assist them in their list review process.
- Ms. Mankowski provided review and comment and met (via phone) with Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Natural Resource Management Coordinator, Scott Meister, to discuss the District's requests to translocate Blanding's Turtles and Barn Owls. The District has been a very cooperative and productive longtime partner to the IDNR and the ESPB and while certain aspects of their recent proposals were not recommended for approval, they continue to conduct a great deal of very important conservation work for multiple listed species.

## 6. Field Work

None.

## 7. 149th meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board

The 149<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board will be at 10:00 A.M. on February 25, 2011 at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The Board will also hold a special meeting to conduct strategic planning at 10:00 A.M. on February 24, 2011, also Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.





Illinois  
Nature  
Preserves  
Commission

memorandum

**Exhibit D**

To: Commissioners

From: Jenny Skufca, Kelly Neal, and Randy Heidorn

Date: February 3, 2011

Subject: Staff recommendation regarding Item 22 - a proposal submitted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to construct a bicycle trail at Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve, McHenry County

Background:

Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve, formerly known as Lake Defiance Nature Preserve, was dedicated December 12, 1974, as the 51<sup>st</sup> Illinois nature preserve. The 294.5-acre Nature Preserve, owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), has been recognized on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #1012) due to the presence of high-quality calcareous floating mat, graminoid fen, sedge meadow, and marsh natural communities, as well as several State-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals. The Nature Preserve lies within Moraine Hills State Park and was originally dedicated as two distinct and non-contiguous units: Leatherleaf Bog and Pike Marsh. The Pike Marsh Unit in the furthest southeast corner of the park is the location of the proposed project. There is currently a walking trail within Pike Marsh that includes a floating boardwalk section on the west side of the Unit.

Proposal:

The IDNR is requesting approval to construct a bicycle trail within the Pike Marsh Unit of Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve. The proposed trail would lie on 1,000 lineal feet of the southern boundary of the Nature Preserve, in part (60-70%), along an existing access lane and completely along an existing natural gas pipeline easement. A permanently impacted paved width of 10 feet is proposed with an approximately 20-foot width of total impact due to the establishment of turf-grass shoulders and installation of woven fence at 5 feet from edge of trail to deter user access to the Nature Preserve. The alignment (shown as the Alternative Alignment in the IDNR's proposal) was evaluated by the IDNR and INPC field staff and determined to cause the least impact to the surrounding wetland. More specifically, this alignment would cause the least ground disturbance to achieve desired slope angles, minimizes wetland impact as opposed to other alignments which would require significant wetland fill and would result in wetland fragmentation, and is located in a degraded portion of the Nature Preserve over a pre-existing pipeline easement subject to periodic vegetative

clearing. Impacts would include the removal of 2 desirable trees (oak and hickory) over 6 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) and numerous saplings less than 6 inches dbh. Other less desirable species of trees would be impacted, but these include species (i.e., boxelder, mulberry, cottonwood) typically targeted for removal as part of any restoration activities. The proposal includes replacement of a bridge in poor condition with an at-grade crossing over two culverts to maintain existing drainage. The bicycle trail is a connecting segment between McHenry County trails and Lake County's Millennium Trail system, all part of the regional Grand Illinois Trail network.

#### Legal Authorities and Responsibilities:

Bicycle trails in nature preserves have proven to be a compatible use at multiple sites in the Nature Preserve System. Some nature preserve proposals identify this as a use prior to dedication. Some master plans have been revised to allow this use after Commissioners have reviewed and approved proposals from landowners. Some bicycle trails within nature preserves lie on pipeline easements, and some lie on abandoned railroad beds. It is an ongoing practice of INPC staff to bring any newly proposed bicycle trails, which were not proposed in a nature preserve's proposal, before the full Commission for consideration.

Under the Rules for Management of Nature Preserves (17 Ill. Adm. Code 4000), Section 4000.120(c), "Management, development, or uses of a specific preserve, not otherwise allowed under the rules, may be allowed as a provision of the master plan for the site, or may be approved by the Commission under Section 4000.160 of this Part." Section 4000.160, states, "...If the Commission determines that the proposed activity will enhance the natural features of the preserve, consistent with the proposal for dedication, the Commission shall approve the request."

Regarding trails in nature preserves, Section 4000.260(a), states that, "The establishment or rehabilitation of trails in a nature preserve may be proposed in writing to the Commission with prior approval of the landowner. Trails shall conform to the objectives of the nature preserve as stated in the master plan or management schedule. Trails shall be laid out so as to affect only part of the preserve and shall have minimal impact on natural features. Trails should have no adverse impact on endangered or threatened species or fragile or limited natural communities or features, pursuant to Section 11 of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act [520 ILCS 10/11]." Further, in Part (b) of Section 4000.260, "...Use of paving materials, footbridges, and elevated walks is permissible when provided for in the master plan. Synthetic materials, painted or chemically treated wood, or stone or earth materials from outside the preserve may be used in trail construction only as provided in the master plan or management schedule." This Section has been interpreted historically as regarding walking trails only.

Under the Rules for Regulation of Public Use of Illinois Dedicated Nature Preserves (17 Ill. Adm. Code 4015), Section 4015.10(n), "It is unlawful: For any person to engage in any sporting or athletic activity, including swimming, within the boundaries of any dedicated nature preserve or nature preserve buffer unless provided for in an approved master plan."

#### Analysis:

The dedication file for Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve contains two memorandums

referencing bicycle trails and their potential installation in the future. On September 28, 1973, a memo written by Jerry Paulson to Marlin Bowles or to file states, "The task force has agreed to dedication of the marsh. Dedication of the pot-hole area is being studied and will be subject to use of the area for interpretation. They plan a trail through area which probably be [sic] heavily used. No bike trails in area. Engineering is looking at drainage. Should be no problem..." On September 20, 1974, a memo written by GP (assumed Gerald Paulson) to file states, "Asked about allowing provisions in dedication for bike trail and for widening Lake Defiance road for park purposes. I said okay." However, the minutes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting at dedication of Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve state that, "Boundaries of the proposed nature preserve had been revised to exclude an area to be used as a bicycle and hiking trail." Therefore it is believed by Commission staff that Paulson's memorandums were regarding the current multi-use trail that exists at the State Park, which is not located within the Nature Preserve. These documents do show that considerations for bicycle trails compatible with natural resource protection in this region of the State have been part of the conversation since prior to dedication.

The file contains evidence that bicycles have historically been used in unauthorized areas of the Nature Preserve. A surveillance report dated March 31, 1987, authored by steward Wayne Schennum, notes an observation that bicycles are using the Pike Marsh Trail. The Annual Report for the Nature Preserve dated March 6, 2002, notes bicycles as a non-conforming use.

The file documents conversations with IDNR planning staff as early as December 5, 1994, regarding the location of the alignment for a proposed regional bike trail through the south edge of Pike Marsh following a utility corridor. These conversations also note that using the State Park multi-use trail should not be considered an option for a regional connector due to the increase in bicycle traffic this would bring. The file indicates, "They apparently already have a problem with huge bike traffic..."

No significant features for which Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve was dedicated will be adversely impacted by the proposed bicycle trail project.

Staff Recommendation:

INPC staff recommends that the IDNR's request to construct a bicycle trail link within Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve be approved with the following stipulations:

- No impact to high quality natural areas or State-listed species,
- Erosion control practices shall be implemented and monitored throughout the duration of the project; no pulses of silt shall enter the high quality marsh,
- All heavy equipment shall be power-washed to remove invasive seed,
- All staging areas shall be away from the Nature Preserve,
- Seeding specifications shall be approved by INPC's Natural Areas Preservation Specialist (NAPS) John Nelson and IDNR's District Heritage Biologist (DHB) Brad Semel,
- No work shall occur March 1 to July 15 due to wetland-dependent bird nesting activity in the marsh immediately north and adjacent to the proposed trail alignment,
- Blanding's turtle records exist adjacent to the proposed bike trail footprint, therefore:

- ❖ Educate all on-site personnel, including the provision of photographs, regarding the species' status of protection and response methods for encounters.
  - ❖ If a Blanding's turtle or any eggs are encountered, personnel should contact NAPS Nelson or DHB Semel immediately.
  - ❖ Exclusionary fencing should be installed and in place from mid-March and remain until the end of October to prevent turtles from entering the construction area. Daily inspection should occur to ensure proper installation (dug into the ground) and to look for turtles.
  - ❖ Trenches can trap turtles and should be routinely inspected throughout the day to ensure no turtles are trapped. Check before backfilling, cover at the end of each day, and return to original grade when project is completed.
- One or more access gates shall be placed along the north fence for personnel and equipment to move between the bicycle trail and the Nature Preserve for management,
  - Illinois Nature Preserve Commission signs shall be placed along the north fence, and, if feasible, interpretive signage identifying the protection status and the high quality resources of the site,
  - If approved, the Master Plan for Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve shall be amended to reflect the approval of the bicycle trail in this location.